

THE ST. LOUIS BIRD CLUB BULLETIN

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A. A. ALLEN TO LECTURE HERE

Dr. A. A. Allen, widely known lecturer on Ornithology, professor of Ornithology at Cornell University and one of the outstanding bird authorities in the country, will address the St. Louis Bird Club and the St. Louis District of the Missouri State Teachers' Association on Thursday evening April 18th, 8 P.M., at Soldan High School. Dr. Allen's illustrated lecture is titled "Stalking Birds with a Color Camera". Through the generosity of the Teacher's Association as well as our own financial cooperation it is possible to present this lecture to you and the public without charge. Scatter the word. This is a rare treat.

BIRD WALKS

Bird Walks are progressing as scheduled in Forest Park and at Shaw's Garden. Those of you who haven't attended are missing some real birding. Let's see you at Shaw's Garden Main Entrance (MEMBERS ONLY) on Saturdays during April at 7:30 A.M., and with any of your friends at Jefferson Memorial Sundays in April at 7 A.M. Bring binoculars or field glasses if at all possible. Birders attending these walks are learning to identify 50 to 75 species of birds. A golden opportunity.

HERMANN SCHWARZ

The loss of Hermann Schwarz is the loss of an irreplaceable naturalist. The St. Louis Bird Club mourns deeply his passing, remembers him for his cheery nature, his whole hearted interest in the success of our organization, and his place in the hearts of all of us as a cherished friend. Those of us who attended his Warbler Pilgrimage to Coldwater last spring will not forget Mr. Schwarz, the perfect host of Schwarzwald. None of us will forget such a friend-- friend of the flowers, friend of the birds, friend of the butterflies, friend of us all.

OTTO WIDMANN

The passing of such a staunch member of the St. Louis Bird Club as was Herman Schwarz reminds us that another of our ranks has followed Otto Widmann. Accompanying this issue of our bulletin is a copy of the Otto Widmann memorial bulletin published several years ago just after his death. Many of you still possess your first copy. But, since there are duplicates, we are happy to present you another--and to our many new members their first-- recalling and reaffirming our love for venerable Otto Widmann.

RESUME OF MARCH MEETING

Our March meeting, held on April 1st as the story goes, was without question one of the highlights of our Clubs existence (and that's over a quarter of a century, if you didn't know). Mr. Frederick C. Lincoln's enlightening remarks on the waterfowl situation as

it is today and as it was at the time our club was founded really set us to thinking cold facts. But "to put a bit of sugar on the lecture", as Mr. Lincoln said, Mr. C. E. Gillham, biologist for the Mississippi Flyway, showed us five reels of remarkable color pictures of "Birds of the Western Arctic" we'll long remember. Our admiration of and enthusiastic thanks to them both!

BIRD OF THE MONTH

This is a story of five Hills - three gentlemen Hills and two lady Hills - who are certainly mountains when you get around to talking about bird observation, for they're stacked up so high with knowledge they peer all over this here bird country. Why, only recently these Hills just up and visited some other hills - - - those wild hills of Calhoun County, Illinois. And before you could say "Waxwing" one of the Calhoun hills said to the Mount City Hills, all being closely related hills you understand, "I'll let you in on a little Hill secret. There's a cache of Bohemian Waxwings in these here parts." And so it was that our own Hills came happily home with, yes, you guessed it, the March "Bird of the Month." All of which nonsense means that the finding of Bohemian Waxwings just about wins bird honors for anybody's month. And for the finding of Bohemian Waxwings on March 24th, our hats off to our very good friends, the Hills.

It's been several years since any one's had Bohemian Waxwings in this region. Widmann found them at Creve Coeur sometime in the twenties if memory serves correctly and was followed by a similar find a year or so later by some other Bird Club member according to the legend. But since then we've looked and looked to no avail. This species is normally circumpolar in its range. Only irregularly in winter do Bohemians get down our way. They're similar to our Cedar Waxwing but larger and show more white. Always examine the Cedar-bird. It may turn out to be a Bohemian Waxwing. And if it does, you've won the "Bird of the Month."

Runner - up "Bird of the Month" was the Saw-Whet Owl of Ben Blewet Campus fame (See March Bulletin). This bird is such a good find that when we went to press in the middle of March with our March Bulletin everyone felt that Miss Laird had a find that couldn't be bested. Just goes to show how birders are out scratching these days.

Third honors go to Wayne Short and Dr. and Mrs. Zemple. Its always a stroke of good fortune to locate a Redbreasted Merganser in this region. Wayne Short spotted two brilliant Male Specimens on March 25th, and a pair on March 27th at Horseshoe Lake and Dr. and Mrs. Zemple spotted seven on the Missouri River near St. Charles on March 30th.

Other observations of interest: Wayne Short reports 16 species of ducks in one flock at Horseshoe Lake on March 27th. There were between 10 and 15 thousand Lesser Scaup, many Ring-Necks and Baldpate, several Canvas-Backs, American Golden-eye, Ruddy Ducks, American Mergansers, Pintails, Gadwall, Green and Blue - Winged Teal, Shovellers, an abundance of Mallards, a couple Black Ducks, one Bufflehead and the two Redbreasted Mergansers. Needless to say Horseshoe's the place to go these days for ducks. And there have been occasional flocks of Canada Geese also. On March 26th Miss Earnst had five Blue Geese there. Gulls have been at Horseshoe in thousands during March and Cormorants arrived the last week of the month.

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WATCH FOR BANDED BIRDS

Holzmark and Berkowitz report a Double-Crested Cormorant found at Horseshoe Lake, March 10th, band in Saskatchewan during 1939. Let each of us be on the watch for banded birds, and be sure to report our findings to the Biological Survey, Washington, D. C. Our small effort in this work may prove to be a great step in the advancement of information concerning the migration habits of our birds.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

BIRDS IN THE GARDEN.....by Margaret McKenny, Published-McClurg and Co., Chicago, Ill. 320 pages, 16 color plates.....\$5.00 Here is an excellent guide book for garden and bird lovers. Birds in the Garden explains everything one needs to know about attracting birds to the garden, feeding and caring for them under all conditions, and getting the most out of them not only in beauty and song but as protectors of the garden against destructive insects and other pests. It is packed full of practical information and helpful advice on such questions as: What should be planted in the garden to make birds stay when they come? What food and shelter should be supplied? How can birds be protected from their enemies? How can they be of help in gardening? And there are fascinating chapters on how to distinguish birds by their song; how to tame wild birds and make them pets; on bird migration, bird photography and community bird sanctuaries.

HERONS AT THE ZOO

Perhaps the most interesting thing in the way of native birds at the St. Louis Zoo is the nesting of three pairs of Black Crowned Night Herons. That in itself is not particularly outstanding, but the circumstances that brought it about are very interesting.

To get the setting of the story I must take you back to the summer of 1938. Near the end of nesting season we collected twenty-five birds to add color to the duck lakes at the Zoo. We took young Black Crowns that were just about to leave the nest from a large and well established rookery at Dardenne Lake in St. Charles County. After cutting their wings we placed the herons on the lake with a vague hope that they might stay. There was no choice in the matter for them. They had to stay through the fall and winter of 1938 but from then on it was entirely up to them. The following spring, when the birds could again fly, a good many of them did leave us. However there were eleven that preferred to stay around the zoo and get their daily bucket of fresh fish. Again in the fall several birds left, but seven or eight of them stayed with us through this past hard winter. They had sheltered roosting places, open water and food at all times so that they came through the bitter cold weather without any trouble

Here it is spring again and three pair of these same birds have seen fit to make the zoo their home. They are nesting on and near the big bird cage and fly back and forth to the duck lake, a distance of about two city blocks, for food and nesting materials. If all goes well with this nesting season, there is no reason why the birds with their offspring should not return to breed in future years. Through close contact with people daily, they have lost much of their fear towards us. So, depending upon the success of these nests, we should have a thriving rookery of herons for St. Louis people to see in St. Louis.

Ralph Sunderman.

Other Zoo News

The regular nesting of Canada Geese, Mallards & Wood Ducks is now going on. It looks as though a pair of Redhead Ducks intend to nest too. They are worth watching.

Bird Club on the Air

Tune to KSD at 3:45 P.M. on Saturday, April 27 for broadcast by members of the Bird Club.

Sssshh!!! Secret!!!

Don't fail to turn to the Pictures section of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch next Sunday. Barring slip-ups, there'll be something of special interest to every Bird Club member.

BRING A FRIEND

Your organization, The St. Louis Bird Club, has need of the cooperation and effort of each member; and we have a feeling every one will do a just share to complete the job in a short time. WE need new members. Our president, Wayne Short, has given unlimited time and effort to secure the best men in the field of Ornithology for our enjoyment and enlightenment. We appreciate these "finds". Needless to say, besides time and effort, expenses arise, which, ever so small, tax the strength of a weak treasury. Membership dues being our only source of revenue, 'tis easy to see the solution. The cooperation and effort we seek, you've guessed it: Bring a friend to the April meeting; cite the advantages of being a member; thus you've done your part. Guarantee the type of program in the future that is ours today. BRING A FRIEND